



1325 California Avenue
Windsor, ON N9B 3Y6
CHAIRPERSON: Barbara Holland
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: Paul A. Picard

SPECIAL REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Holy Names High School
1400 Northwood St., Windsor

MINUTES

PRESENT

Trustees:

F. Alexander	J. Macri
J. Courtney	B. Mastromattei
M. DiMenna, Vice-Chair	J. McMahan
F. Favot	L. Soulliere
B. Holland, Chair	
J. Najem, Student Trustee	
N. Tavares, Student Trustee	
Rev. L. Brunet, Board Chaplain	

Regrets:

Administration:

P. Picard (Resource)	E. Byrne
J. Bumbacco	P. Murray
C. Geml	C. Norris
M. Iatonna	S. O'Hagan-Wong
P. Littlejohns	J. Shea
	J. Ulicny

Recorder: B. Marshall

1. Call To Order - Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Opening Prayer - Fr. Brunet opened the meeting with a prayer.
3. Recording of Attendance - All trustees present.
4. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that the June 26, 2012 Special Board meeting agenda be approved as distributed. *Carried*

5. Questions Pertaining to Agenda: *None*

6. Disclosure of Interest - Pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

Trustee Courtney disclosed interest in relation to agenda items 12a) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, Including St. Theresa, St. Bernard and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools; 12b) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Fontainebleau Area, Including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois Catholic Elementary Schools; and 12c) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Lakeshore Area, Including Our Lady Of Annunciation and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary Schools due to her daughter's employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

Trustee Macri disclosed interest in relation to agenda items 12a) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, Including St. Theresa, St. Bernard and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools; 12b) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Fontainebleau Area, Including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois Catholic Elementary Schools; and 12c) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Lakeshore Area, Including Our Lady Of Annunciation and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary Schools due to his sons' employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

Trustee Mastromattei disclosed interest in relation to agenda items 12a) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, Including St. Theresa, St. Bernard and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools; 12b) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Fontainebleau Area, Including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois Catholic Elementary Schools; and 12c) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Lakeshore Area, Including Our Lady Of Annunciation and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary Schools due to his daughter and daughter-in-law's employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

Trustee McMahon disclosed interest in relation to agenda items 12a) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, Including St. Theresa, St. Bernard and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools; 12b) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Fontainebleau Area, Including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois Catholic Elementary Schools; and 12c) Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Lakeshore Area, Including Our Lady Of Annunciation and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary Schools due to his daughter, son and daughter-in-law's employment and did not participate in the discussion or vote on any question raised on that item.

7. Presentations: *None*

8. Delegations:

a. Delegation Regarding Items Not on the Agenda: *None*

b. Delegations Regarding Items On the Agenda:

- i) Paul Mullins, community representative spoke about potential population growth, Town of Lakeshore is amendable to a joint use agreement at St. John the Evangelist,

and commented on the possibility of St. John the Evangelist school closing May 31, 2012.

- ii) Catherine Johnson, parent from W.J. Langlois spoke about the benefits of W.J. Langlois and encouraged trustees to vote in favour of the recommendations.
- iii) Joyce Harkness, community representative read a letter written by her son, Troy Harkness, a former student of W.J. Langlois supporting open concept and commented on the amenities near the school.

Chair Holland indicated the Board appreciates all presentations and emails received since the ARC process began.

- 9. Action Items: *None*
- 10. Communications: *None*
 - a. External (Associations, OCSTA, Ministry)
 - b. Internal (Reports from Administration)
- 11. Unfinished Business: *None*
- 12. New Business:
 - a. Report: Director Of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Amherstburg Area, Including St. Theresa, St. Bernard and Stella Maris Catholic Elementary Schools

Trustee Favot voiced his concerns with the recommendation to close St. Theresa school September 2012 citing the brief time lines for transition and the potential loss of students transferring out of our system.

Trustee DiMenna inquired on the number of students currently enrolled at St. Theresa school (123) and how many to date have registered with our coterminous board (25). Trustee DiMenna is also uncomfortable with the time lines but indicated it is difficult to justify the operation of a school, for one more year, with possibly ninety-eight (98) students.

As per trustees' inquiries:

- Executive Superintendent Iatonna indicated the operating cost of St. Theresa to remain open is approximately \$737,000 per year, not including unforeseen expenses.
- Associate Director Geml commented on Educational Assistants transfers and postings as per the collective agreement.
- Director Picard assured trustees senior administration and principals will begin the development of the transition committee immediately and is confident the principals of each school are committed to Catholic education whom are determined to create a strong unified community for all students but especially our students with special needs.

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board receive as information the Director's Follow-Up Report on the accommodation review study for the Amherstburg area, including St. Bernard, St. Theresa, and Stella Maris Catholic elementary schools;

and, that the Board approve the recommendations of Senior Administration as follows:

That, effective September 2012, St. Theresa be officially closed and the property declared surplus to the Board;

That the boundaries of the neighbouring schools, including St. Bernard, Stella Maris and St. Joseph be adjusted in accordance with Appendix 1 attached, to accommodate those students currently within the St. Theresa boundary;

That the boundaries of St. Bernard, Stella Maris, St. Joseph and St. Anthony be "open" to allow students to register at any of the schools out of boundary, conditional upon them providing their own means of transportation;

and That an Integration Committee, composed of representatives from each school community, including St. Theresa, Stella Maris, St. Bernard and St. Joseph be immediately established in order to plan for and implement the positive integration of students and staff into the new merged communities.

Carried.

Recorded vote: In Favour: Trustees Alexander, DiMenna, Holland, and Soulliere

Opposed: Trustee Favot

- b. Report: Director of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Fontainebleau Area, Including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois Catholic Elementary Schools

Trustee Soulliere congratulated the Fontainebleau committee members for acknowledging, from the beginning, the necessity to become one community. Trustee Soulliere understands parents' concerns with open concept but realized, upon touring W.J. Langlois', its potential.

Senior Manager of Facilities and Support Services Littlejohns indicated upon approval of the recommendation, an integration committee will be developed and will be included in the retrofitting discussions. The ordering of supplies and scheduling of construction will begin soon after.

Trustee Favot requested administration to provide an actual cost breakdown of the retrofitting of W.J. Langlois prior to approving the recommendation. Chair Holland mentioned the report indicates a cost of \$200,000 to retrofit W.J. Langlois and indicated board approval would be necessary if additional funding is required.

Trustee Favot commented on W.J. Langlois located at the extreme end of Fontainebleau; concerns with open concept; and the transferring of students to St. Alexander until the renovations are completed at W.J. Langlois.

Moved by Trustee DiMenna and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board receive as information the Director's Follow-Up Report on the accommodation review study for the Fontainebleau area, including St. Alexander and W.J. Langlois elementary schools;

and, that the Board approve the recommendations of Senior Administration as follows:

That, effective September 2012, the students from W.J Langlois and St. Alexander be temporarily accommodated at the St. Alexander site pending renovations and retrofitting of the W.J. Langlois building to create a blended open concept/traditional classroom setting, with the new merged community then transferring into the renovated facility at the W.J. Langlois building no earlier than October 9, 2012 and no later than January 7, 2013;

That, upon the transfer of students into the renovated facility at W.J. Langlois, St. Alexander be officially closed and the property declared surplus to the Board's needs;

That the boundaries of St. Jules, St. Bernard and Our Lady of Lourdes be "open" to any St. Alexander students who wish to register at any of those schools out of boundary, conditional upon families providing their own means of transportation;

and, That an Integration Committee, composed of representatives from each school community be immediately established in order to plan for and implement the positive integration of students and staff into the new merged community, and to consult with Board Administration in the formalizing of plans for retrofitting and establishing timelines for transition. Carried

Recorded Vote: In Favour: Trustees Alexander, DiMenna, Holland and Soulliere

Opposed: Trustee Favot

- c. Report: Director Of Education's Follow-Up Report on the Accommodation Review Study for the Lakeshore Area, Including Our Lady Of Annunciation and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary Schools

Trustee Soulliere inquired on the boundary review for the Lakeshore area. Executive Superintendent Iatonna mentioned administration is aware of the "grey areas" and will review and report back to the Board.

Director Picard addressed delegation Mullins' concerns.

Closing of St. John the Evangelist school May 31, 2013: There is a need for administration and the community to work together on the boundary adjustment in order to increase enrolment at St. John the Evangelist school. Also, suggested to amend the motion to read *on or before* May 31, 2013.

Joint use Agreement: Administration is in favour of a joint use agreement with the Town of Lakeshore and upon approval of the recommendations will initiate discussions.

Trustee Favot mentioned rural schools are traditionally small by nature and indicated the one year time frame to increase enrolment is too short. Director Picard explained the urgency to engage the community to participate in the process to increase enrolment in order to find a solution. Trustee Favot inquired on whether discussions with the French board have begun. Director Picard indicated, as with other recommendation components the same concept applies, until the recommendations are approved by trustees, it would not have been prudent to engage in formal discussions although he did indicate brief informal discussions have occurred.

Trustee Soulliere commented on the uniqueness and yet similarities of rural schools and the need for the communities to bring forth their school strengths to encourage enrolment. She stressed the importance of the partnership with Board, school and church in order to move forward in areas where change is necessary for sustainability.

Moved by Trustee Soulliere and seconded by Trustee Alexander that the Board receive as information the Director's Follow-Up Report on the accommodation review study for the Lakeshore area, including Our Lady of Annunciation and St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary schools;

and, that the Board approve the recommendations of Senior Administration as follows:

That the Board approve Our Lady of Annunciation remaining open while the Board pursues a partnership with the French Catholic Board and/or another neighbouring Catholic Board, as well as Ministry of Education funding, for a new rural school building to be constructed preferably near the new Visitation Church in Comber or at an alternative, centrally located site on property to be determined pursuant to a comprehensive site search;

That Our Lady of Annunciation be closed and the property declared surplus to the Board's needs should the new school be realized;

That St. John the Evangelist Catholic Elementary School be scheduled for closure in June 2013 and the school community shall be accommodated at St. John the Baptist effective September 2013, subject to the following;

That in the 2012-2013 school year, the Board conduct a boundary review for the Woodslee/Essex/Belle River area, including St. John the Evangelist, Holy Name (Essex), St. William and St. John the Baptist to determine whether enrolment at the schools can be balanced so that each school meets the Ministry of Education utilization funding threshold;

That administration enter into discussions with the Municipality of Lakeshore toward arriving at a mutually agreeable joint use agreement through which the Municipality would lease a portion of the St. John the Evangelist facility;

Amended Recommendation: Moved by Trustee Alexander and seconded by Trustee Soulliere that *on or before* May 2013, the Board shall examine the results of the boundary review, including the utilization rates and the Board's 2013/2014 student population forecasts for St. John the Evangelist, Holy Name (Essex), St. William and St. John the Baptist, to consider a further deferral of the closure of St. John the Evangelist, based on the Board's determination of the viability of each of the four (4) schools;

Recorded Vote to the Amendment: In Favour: Trustees Alexander, DiMenna, Holland, and Soulliere

Opposed: Trustee Favot

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION: That in May 2013, the Board shall examine the results of the boundary review, including the utilization rates and the Board's 2013/2014 student population forecasts for St. John the Evangelist, Holy Name (Essex), St. William and St. John the Baptist, to consider a further deferral of the closure of St. John the Evangelist, based on the Board's determination of the viability of each of the four (4) schools;

and, That should the Board decide, based on its review, not to defer, but to confirm the closure of St. John the Evangelist, a Joint Integration Committee shall be established in May 2013, composed of representatives from St. John the Evangelist and St. John the Baptist in order to implement the positive integration of students and staff. Carried

Recorded Vote: In Favour: Trustees Alexander, DiMenna, Holland, Soulliere

Opposed: Trustee Favot

13. Committee Reports: *None*

14. Notice of Motion: *None*

15. Remarks and Announcements:

- a. Chairperson Holland thanked the three Accommodation Review Committees for the time and commitment to Catholic education.
- b. Director of Education echoed Trustee Soulliere's comments and thanked board personnel for their invaluable assistance. He mentioned the importance of every Catholic student and thanked trustees for their confidence in administration.
- c. Board Chaplain Brunet indicated the role of the Accommodation Review Committee was not to close schools but to improve Catholic education and congratulated parents, Director, Chair, and administrators for their input and commitment in realizing these difficult decisions.

16. Remarks/Questions by Trustees

Trustee DiMenna thanked delegations who spoke not just tonight but at all the ARC public meetings as their input provided insight for trustees to move forward for the betterment of Catholic education.

17. Pending Items: *None*
18. Continuation of In-Camera, if required.- *Not Required*
19. Future Board Meetings: *Unless stated otherwise, all meetings will be held at the Windsor Essex Catholic Education Centre - 1325 California Avenue, Windsor with the In-Camera Session beginning at 6:00 p.m. and the Public Session beginning at 7:00 p.m.*
 - Tuesday, July 24, 2012 (***Tentative, to be confirmed by the Chair***)
 - Tuesday, August 28, 2012
 - Tuesday, September 11, 2012
 - Tuesday, September 25, 2012
 - Tuesday, October 9, 2012
 - Tuesday, October 23, 2012
 - Tuesday, November 13, 2012
 - Tuesday, November 27, 2012
 - Tuesday, December 4, 2012 (***Organizational Meeting – 7:30 pm***)
 - Tuesday, December 11, 2012
20. Closing Prayer – Fr. Brunet closed the meeting with a prayer.
21. Adjournment - There being no further business, the Regular Board meeting of June 26, 2012 adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Approved

Barbara Holland
Board Chairperson

Paul A. Picard
Director of Education & Secretary of the Board